by them, with no subsidy from the Government. Following this, prices of decontrolled fertilizers went up and demand has also been sluggish. Imported DAP is available at a considerably lower price compared to the cost of production of indigenous units. Faced with this situation, there are reports that various DAP units have suspended production. There are also reports that a number of units have not contracted for fresh supplies of phosphoric acid and ammonia.

In dealing with this situation, Government are keen to ensure supplies at affordable prices to farmers. Accordingly the focus is to help the industry to bring down their cost of production and become more competitive. Government has already abolished customs duty on import of phosphoric acid. Government has also announced a scheme of refund of customs duty paid on capital goods, as also a concession of 3 per cent in interest rate on term loans, provided that the net interest rate after adjustment of this concession remains at a minimum of 12 per cent. These concessions are available to all the fertilizer plants commissioned on or after 1-1-1991. It is also reported that the phosphatic industry has filed an application for initiating anti-dumping proceedings in respect of imported DAP.

उत्तर-पश्चिमी हिमालय क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए बोर्ड का गठन

*75. **श्री महेश्वर सिंह :** क्या **योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्री** 4 मार्च, 1993 को राज्य सभा में अतारांकित प्रश्न 1322 के दिए गए उत्तर को देखेंगे और यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या उत्तर-पश्चिमी हिमालय क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए बोर्ड के गठन के संबंध में अंतिम निर्णय लिया जा चुका है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं, और

(घ) इस संबंध में निर्णय कब तक लिए जाने की संभावना है ?

योजना और कार्यक्रम कार्यान्वयन मंत्रालय के राज्य मंत्री (श्री गिरिधर गोमांगो) : (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(ग) और (घ) योजना आयोग ने इसी बीच हिमालय के एकीकृत विकास के लिए एक राष्ट्रीय नीति तैयार करने हेतु सदस्य (विज्ञान, प्रौद्योगिकी एवं पर्यावरण) की अध्यक्षता में एक विशेषज्ञ दल का गठन किया है। उत्तर-पश्चिमी हिमालय क्षेत्र के विकास के लिए एक शीर्ष निकाय के गठन के बारे में अंतिम निर्णय, विशेषज्ञ दल की सिफारिशों को ध्यान में रखते हुए लिया जाएगा।

Clandestine Trade in Computers

*76. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the clandestine trade in computers in the country and sale of computers without payment of any taxes;

(b) whether Government have made any study of the problem;

(c) if so, what are the details thereof stating the modus operandi of the persons involved in the trade, the estimated number of the computers suspected to be sold in the market and the estimated loss of revenues caused during 1991 and 1992; and

(d) in what manner in which Government propose to check the menace ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND DEPARTMENT OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE

MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) to (d) There have been some press reports about clandestine trade in computers in the country. These have been brought to the notice of the Directorates of Revenue Intelligence and Anti Tax Evasion.

The Government of India have taken the following steps to discourage the possibility of any clandestine trade in computers :—

(i) Computer systems of CIF value above Rs. 1.5 lakhs and computer peripherals (except monitor and key board of CIF value upto Rs. 7500) are freely importable.

(ii) Excise duty on computer systems has been reduced from 17.25 per cent to 15 per cent during the budget 1993-94.

(iii) Customs duty on computers and peripherals has been reduced to 80 per cent plus 15 per cent CVD (107 per cent) from 146.225 per cent during the budget 1993-94.

(iv) Manufacture of computer systems has been delicenced.

Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937

*77. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the provisions of Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1937 are in force;

(b) whether most of the Cantonments have been openly violating the rules as provided under Rule No. 6 and 7 etc. of CLA Rule, 1937;

(c) whether no credit of fund on account of STR is being granted to Central Government by the Kanpur and Lucknow Cantonment authorities;

(d) whether Government propose to constitute a high powered committee to investigate the causes of lapses, misuse of funds and fixing up the responsibilities on the defaulting officials of these two cantonments; and

(e) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Cantonment Boards are permitted to lease out only lands in civilian areas and such of those lands which stand vested in them. Such lease rents are to be credited to the Cantonment funds concerned. All other leases of Government lands in Cantonments are ordered only with the approval of Government of India. Such lease amounts are collected by the Defence Estates Officer concerned and credited to the Consolidated Fund of India.

(d) No case of lapse|misuse of funds has come to the notice of the Government to warrant constitution of a Committee to investigate the matter.

(e) Does not arise.

Revision of Indian Patents Act, 1970

@*78. SHRI H. HANUMANTHAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Dunkel's text will necessitate a complete revision of the Indian Patents Act, 1970;

(b) if so, what are the details of the revisions proposed to the said Act;

(c) whether the revision of the Patents Act is likely to come up in the current Budget Session of Parliament; and

@Previously Starred Question 18, transferred from the 26th April, 1993.